

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE RURAL DISTRICT**

**IN THE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE**

---

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**Including Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector**

**for**

**1951**





CHESTERTON, NEWMARKET and SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS

*With the Compliments of  
the Medical Officer of Health*

SHIRE HALL,  
CASTLE HILL,  
CAMBRIDGE.



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## GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District:	112,315 acres
Number of Parishes:	52
Rateable Value:	£90,104
Sum represented by a penny rate as at 31/3/52:	£344 9s. 7d.
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book:	8,260
Estimated mid-year Home Population:	26,210
Census Population 1951:	26,535
Birth Rate	17.6
(Corrected)	18.8
Death Rate	14.3
(Corrected)	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate	30.4

The district is agricultural in character, and, depending on location varies from the market gardening area of the greensand outcrop in the North-west, to the fruit growing area of the upper Rhee round Melbourn and Meldreth and to the corn and sugar beet area of the chalk hills to the East and South.

Industries in the area are mostly connected either directly or indirectly with agriculture. There are exceptions, however, Sawston with its 1,900 population has industries of a divergent nature. Comparatively large numbers of workers are employed in paper and leather manufacture.

Other manufacturies in Duxford, Barrington and Gamlingay produce synthetic glues, cement and joinery products respectively. The majority of employees thus engaged are resident within the rural district.

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## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN —Councillor G. O. Vinter

Vice-CHAIRMAN—Councillor G. Hagger

## COUNCILLORS

Barnes, A.	Malthouse, H. F.
Bowen, Mrs. G.	Matthews, F.
Bowers, C. H.	May, S. W. H.
Bullman, E. W.	Morley, E. W.
Campkin, Miss N. I.	Murfitt, F. W.
Chamberlain, H. V.	Noble, J. W.
Clark, D. G.	Perry, R. J.
Custerson, R.	Randall, P.
Dyball, E. F.	Rogers, Mrs. H.
Fordham, G. R. B.	Saggers, A. C.
Horsford, F. W.	Taylor, S. A.
Jackson, R. C.	Webb, J. D.
Kiddy, E. J.	Wiseman, E. J.
Lay, J. H.	



To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health circular 42/51 dated 10th December, 1951.

The year was marked by the taking of the Census on April 8th, 1951, and the Preliminary Report of the Registrar General shows that the population of the district was 26,535 persons. At the time of the formation of the Rural District in 1934 the population was 20,443.

The year under review ushers in the second half of the 20th century and I have thought it appropriate to summarise some aspects of the district's health since 1934. This report includes, therefore, a study of the experience of the district during 1951, together with some comparisons from past years, and the observations of the Senior Sanitary Inspector upon the day to day sanitary circumstances of the area.

The vital statistics for the year call for no particular comment. It should be remembered that when working with small numbers the ratios calculated are liable to exhibit wide variations from year to year and comparisons are better derived from the study of the actual figures. The recent reintroduction by the Registrar General of the comparability factor allows for the correction of the birth and death rates to enable comparisons to be made with other areas. Uncorrected rates are used for comparisons in different years in the same area.

The experience with regard to infectious diseases is discussed elsewhere in the report.

The main problems confronting the district at present are those relating to housing, water supplies and sewerage schemes. It is pleasing to report upon the good progress of the Linton sewerage scheme. At Sawston the existing sewage works are far from satisfactory and it is hoped that existing defects will shortly be remedied by the proposed scheme.

The provision of piped water supplies in the district will be greatly enhanced when the Comprehensive Scheme can be started. As recorded elsewhere in the report progress is being made with the trial bore at Dotterell Hall. At present some 61% of the 8,260 properties in the district have a piped water supply either by means of a standpipe or piped into the premises. The importance of pure water supplies and safe disposal of waste water and sewage cannot be over emphasized; they are two of the most essential factors necessary for the attainment of a high standard of environmental hygiene so necessary for the health and well being of the community.

Housing continues a problem. Despite the great progress made by the Council a considerable number of applicants remain unsatisfied. It must not be forgotten that 311 families are still occupying ex-service hutments. These huts have served a useful purpose in relieving the pressure on housing waiting lists but their life is not unlimited by any means. Originally erected as temporary living accommodation for service personnel, they have now in the main been in use for 10 years. Despite much valuable work in conversion and improvement the essential fabric cannot be expected to last for ever and a time will soon come when at no reasonable cost can they be maintained as habitable dwellings. The Council is earnestly advised to consider a programme whereby the rehousing of these families can take place *pari passu* with the rate at which the huts become unfit and uneconomical.

The scheme for collecting house refuse partly by a service run by the Council and partly by contractor has continued. Some parishes where collections are less frequent than monthly have requested that the service be increased. There is no doubt of the importance to the public health in the proper disposal of house refuse nor is the fact to be lost sight of that, by means of properly controlled tipping, land, unsuitable for agricultural or recreational facilities, can be reclaimed. It is hoped that in the ensuing year the Council will agree to enlarging the existing services by the acquisition of a further vehicle and that no parish will have a collection less frequently than once a month.

It is a matter for regret that the Council have not yet decided to implement fully the duties laid upon them by the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act, 1949. Only by every local authority doing its utmost in the matter can the intention of the Act be brought to fruition.

I am,

Yours obediently,

P. A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations.)

### Live Births

							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	224	221	445
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	6	15
							<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	233	227	460
							<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..			17.6
Birthrate corrected by comparability factor (1.07)	..	..	..	..	..	..			18.8
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..			15.5

### Stillbirths

							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	7
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
							<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	7
							<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..			14.9
Rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..			0.26
Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..			0.36

### Deaths

							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
							198	177	375
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..			14.3
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.82)	..	..	..	..	..	..			11.6
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..			12.5

### Infant Mortality. Deaths of infants under one year of age.

							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 (5)	5 (5)	13 (10)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
							<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	9 (5)	5 (5)	14 (10)
							<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets.)

Infant Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	30.4
Infant Mortality Rate. (England and Wales)	29.6
Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	21.7
Legitimate Infants per thousand legitimate live births	29.2
15 Illegitimate births occurred and one of these children died before reaching age one.	
Maternal Mortality. (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	Nil



Deaths from cancer (all ages) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Death from tuberculosis (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pulmonary	Male 3	Female Nil	..	..	..	..	..	3
Non-Pulmonary	Male 1	Female Nil	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths from whooping cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Deaths from influenza ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

### CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
*BIRTH RATE	17.1	15.6	19.1	17.5	17.6	17.6
*DEATH RATE	13.1	14.1	13.8	11.9	12.7	14.3
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	54.9	44.4	19.2	30.6	11.5	30.4
	(21)	(21)	(9)	(13)	(3)	(14)

\* The above rates are uncorrected so that they are comparable from year to year. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

### TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	5	14
1 and under 2 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
2 and under 5 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5 and under 15 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
15 and under 25 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	—	4
25 and under 35 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	7
35 and under 45 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	7
45 and under 55 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	7	20
55 and under 65 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	18	43
65 and under 75 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54	43	97
75 and over ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84	96	180
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	<hr/> 198	<hr/> 177	<hr/> 375

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

### **Medical Officer of Health**

After Dr. A. Morgan's retirement on September 30th, 1950 the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils held discussions with the Cambridgeshire County Council and the Ministry of Health concerning the filling of the vacancy thus created by means of a 'mixed' appointment.

It was decided that a medical officer should be appointed to act as medical officer of health for the three Rural District Councils for six elevenths of his time and as deputy county medical officer of health and deputy school medical officer for the remaining five elevenths. For the former appointment "The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951" has been made.

I commenced duties for this mixed appointment on July 23rd, 1951.

### **Sanitary Inspectors**

It is with regret that I record the sudden death in April, 1951, of Mr. A. C. Dyson the Senior Sanitary Inspector. He had been with the South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council since its formation in 1934. His services were of the utmost value to this Council, as indeed they were to the Melbourn and Ashwell Rural District Councils with whom he held a joint appointment as sanitary inspector prior to 1934.

The work of the department was carried on single handed by the additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. J. Hoyle, until August when Mr. H. J. Taylor was appointed additional Sanitary Inspector and Mr. R. J. Hoyle, M.R.S.I. was appointed Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Both officers carry out their designated duties, supervise refuse collection and disposal and are responsible for the administration of the Petroleum Acts and Regulations.

### **Laboratory Facilities**

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

### **Hospitals**

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Cambridge City Isolation Hospital.

## **SOME ASPECTS OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT**

In 1934 the South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council was formed by the union of the Linton and Melbourn Rural Districts together with thirteen parishes from the old Caxton and Arrington Rural District.

The area so formed had an acreage of 112,315 acres and an estimated population of 20,443 persons at the time. At the 1951 Census the figure had increased to 26,535 persons. Annual reports of the medical officers of health to the component parts of the area are unfortunately not available thus making a survey of the district's health in past decades impossible. From the complete records available, and including the year 1934, some trends in mortality and morbidity have been compiled.

In Table I the trends in population, birthrate, death rate and infant mortality rate are shown and the ten years' average compared with that for England and Wales.

**TABLE I.**  
**YEARLY POPULATION, BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY RATE**  
**FOR THE TEN YEARS 1941—1950**

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1941	—	12.6	13.7	48.5
1942	23,200	12.0	15.0	34.3
1943	—	16.9	12.5	26.2
1944	22,270	18.9	15.5	27.9
1945	21,900	18.8	13.7	24.1
1946	22,280	17.1	13.1	54.9
1947	23,720	15.6	14.1	44.4
1948	24,400	19.1	13.8	19.2
1949	24,280	17.5	11.9	30.6
1950	24,700	17.6	12.7	11.5
Average	23,344	16.6	13.6	32.2
Average for England and Wales	—	16.9	12.3	44.5

The large variation from year to year in the infant mortality rate (deaths under one year per thousand live births) will be noted but it should be remembered that when working with small numbers the ratios calculated are liable to exhibit such fluctuations: the average for the ten years is satisfactory and compares favourably with the figure for England and Wales.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Since 1934 the district has been free from any major invasion of serious infectious disease. Sporadic cases of typhoid fever occurred in 1935 and 1938 as shown in Table II.

**TABLE II.**  
**ANNUAL INCIDENCE OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Years	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid
1934	3	80	—
1935	2	87	1
1936	—	11	—
1937	1	58	—
1938	1	14	2
1939	1	26	—
1940	1	12	—
1941	1	5	—
1942	2	17	—
1943	2	10	—
1944	—	13	—
1945	1	6	—
1946	1	13	—
1947	—	13	—
1948	1	32	—
1949	—	68	—
1950	—	65	—
Total	17	530	3
1951	—	4	—



### Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria

Scarlet fever has continued to be prevalent in most years, though 1941, 1945 and this year are notable for the very small number of cases. The average number of cases per year for the last ten years has been 24; there have been no deaths from this disease since 1934. The figures for diphtheria are satisfactory, 17 cases in all since 1934 with no deaths and no cases for the last three years. This does not in any way make for relaxation in vigilance, and the continuation of these good results is dependant upon a high proportion of the child population being immunised. In the national figures the success of the Ministry's campaign for diphtheria immunisation, started in the early war years, is exemplified by the fact that in 1938 there were 65,000 notified cases and 2,860 deaths whereas in 1949 the figures were 1890 and 84 respectively.

### Measles and Whooping Cough

Cases of measles and whooping cough were not required to be notified until October, 1939. From 1941 till this year the number of cases notified and the deaths attributable to these diseases is shown in Table III.

TABLE III.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH Annual case incidence and deaths 1941—1951												
YEARS												
DISEASE	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	TOTAL	1951
<i>Measles</i>												
Cases	681	25	256	95	535	132	111	405	341	30	2,611	522
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Whooping cough</i>												
Cases	73	92	112	56	62	96	91	96	130	64	872	181
Deaths	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	3	—

Whooping cough, because of the difficulty it presents in early diagnosis, is not easy to control. Since it is infectious for some time before the characteristic cough appears (this symptom is not always present) many children may become infected from a case. It is a serious illness in young children and may leave behind it effects prejudicial to the child's well being. Quite often it has a fatal termination in the young child. For these and other reasons the production of a reliable preventive inoculation is urgently awaited. Recent work carried out by the Medical Research Council gives promise of the realisation of this desire and it is hoped that in the very near future a whooping cough campaign, similar to the so successful diphtheria project of the war years, may be launched by the Ministry.

Measles and whooping cough continue to form the bulk of the notifications received. In the year under review these diseases were particularly prevalent, an experience common to England and Wales generally as shown by the fact that the incidence in the country as a whole was higher this year than the average for the past ten years. Measles and whooping cough continue to produce a considerable morbidity in the child population but of the two, whooping cough carries the higher death rate. Although there were no deaths from measles in the period 1941/50, three deaths occurred from whooping cough in a total of 872 notified cases, giving a case fatality rate of nearly .35 per cent.

In Table IV are shown the notifications received relating to infectious disease in the year under review together with the number of deaths attributable to each disease. The 1950 total figures are given for comparison.

### Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning occurred in a child aged ten. The casual organism was *Salmonella typhi-murium* but exhaustive investigations failed to discover the source of the infection.

TABLE IV. NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS.

1950 Totals (Deaths in brackets)	65	64 (1)	—		30	—	160 (1)
Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Non-Paralytic	Measles	Diphtheria	Totals
Under 1	—	14	—	—	17	—	31
1—2	—	44	—	—	94	—	138
3—4	3	40	—	—	125	—	168
5—9	1	73	—	—	246	—	320
10—14	—	4	—	—	29	—	33
15—24	—	1	—	—	3	—	4
25 and over	—	5	—	—	8	—	13
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	181	—	—	522	—	707

1950 Totals (Deaths in brackets)	8 (9)*	—	3	—	—	—	11 (9)
Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5	3	1	—	—	—	—	4
5—14	2	—	—	1	—	—	3
15—44	3	—	1	—	2	—	7
45—65	6	—	1	—	—	—	7
65 and over	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals (Deaths in brackets)	20 (4)	1	2	1	2	—	27 (4)

\* The disparity between deaths and notifications is accounted for by a death occurring in the year following notification.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Pulmonary tuberculosis is an infectious disease associated with poverty, malnutrition and overcrowding. As these factors have diminished in the country the incidence and mortality of the disease experienced a steady fall up to the beginning of World War II. From then until now mortality has shown a declining trend, though during the war years a slightly increased mortality occurred in certain years as compared with others. With regard to incidence, as evidenced by the annual formal notifications, this fell steadily from 117,000 approx. in 1913 to 46,000 approx. in 1939/40; rose to 54,000 approx. in 1943/44 and has since fallen to 52,000 approx. To what extent this rise, as compared with pre-war years, is real rather than apparent is difficult to assess, but it can certainly be said that the use of Mass Radiography and the more intensive examination of case contacts has had its effect in discovering cases which would otherwise have escaped notice. There is no doubt that the earlier detection of cases by Mass Radiography and the discovery of certain drugs, notably P.A.S. (para-aminosalicylic acid) and streptomycin for the treatment of the disease, have together played an important part in affecting morbidity and mortality.

Nevertheless a considerable number of active and quiescent cases remain on the notification register. This register has been the subject of the customary periodic check this year and in Table A the state of the register is shown as at December 31st. The large number of removals is attributable to the periodic check. In Table B the age and sex distribution of the cases remaining on the register is shown. Graphs on pages 12 and 13 show the incidence of new cases and deaths reported each year for pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis since 1934. The abrupt rise of notifications in 1941 may have been due in part to the transference of evacuee cases onto the register. The rise in



notifications beginning in 1947/48 cannot be accounted for by any one single factor. Spot maps show the cases to be widely scattered throughout the district. The wider use of methods of early detection together with more intensive case contact examination referred to previously, may be reflected in the trend shown by the graph.

It will be seen from the analysis of the register (Table A) that there is a total of 146 cases of tuberculosis of all forms. 99 are persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 47 from non-respiratory tuberculosis.

**TABLE A.**  
**TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER**

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year	81	60	33	44	114	104
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations	6	7	5	1	11	8
3. Cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	1	—	—	—	1	—
(b) From Death Returns	2	—	—	—	2	—
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	30	28	13	23	43	51
6. Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year	60	39	25	22	85	61

Cases removed from the register shown under (5) are accounted for as follows:—

Found not to be T.B.		Recovered		Removed to another area		Died		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
—	—	2	7	Pulmonary 16	11	12 (3)	10	30	28
—	1	8	10	Non-Pulmonary 1	6	4 (1)	6	13	23

Figures in brackets are the actual deaths occurring in 1951.

**TABLE B.**  
**AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION**  
**PULMONARY AND NON PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS**  
**CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.51**

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	<i>Pul.</i>	<i>Non Pul.</i>	<i>Pul.</i>	<i>Non Pul.</i>	<i>Pul.</i>	<i>Non Pul.</i>	
0—15	4	8	8	7	12	15	27
15—25	8	6	9	6	17	12	29
25—35	20	6	6	2	26	8	34
35—45	10	1	8	2	18	3	21
45—55	9	1	5	3	14	4	18
55—65	5	2	2	—	7	2	9
65 and over	4	1	1	2	5	3	8
TOTALS	60	25	39	22	99	47	146

These figures give case rates per 1,000 population (using the 1951 census figures) of 3.73 for pulmonary tuberculosis, 1.77 for non respiratory tuberculosis, with a total case rate of 5.50.

The incidence of non respiratory tuberculosis is largely attributable to milk. It has been estimated that in the years 1948 and 1949 about 900 adults and 650 children died in these two years from tuberculosis due to infection with the bovine strain of the bacillus. In this connection the remarks of the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health in his report of the nation's health for 1949 are reproduced.

“Although mortality from non respiratory forms of tuberculosis has declined markedly in the last eleven years, it cannot be denied that these forms are still responsible for a considerable number of deaths and, in addition, for a large amount of severe crippling which is not reflected in the mortality records. Milk is known to be the main source of this infection. It is also known that efficient heat-treatment of milk will eliminate not only tubercle bacilli, but also the many other organisms of the group of milk-born infections which cause sickness and death. A great deal of unnecessary disease is at present endured in this country which could be avoided by the introduction of compulsory heat-treatment of milk.”

With regard to milk supplies, active steps are being taken in conjunction with the veterinary officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Public Health Laboratories Service to trace and eliminate sources of infection.

Since infection with the tubercle bacillus causes an illness requiring, in most cases, a considerable period of rest and treatment, control of the disease is economically important to the country, apart from the natural desire to eliminate human suffering. With the changes in the structure of our population producing an increasing number of dependants upon a working population which is not increasing proportionately, it is of prime importance that an infectious disease producing long term illness should command urgent attention. By the use of Mass Radiography, the important work of tracing case contacts, the increasing use of protective inoculation in suitable cases by means of B.C.G. the improved techniques of treatment and the general raising of living standards in the population, a great effort is being made toward combating the effects of the disease.

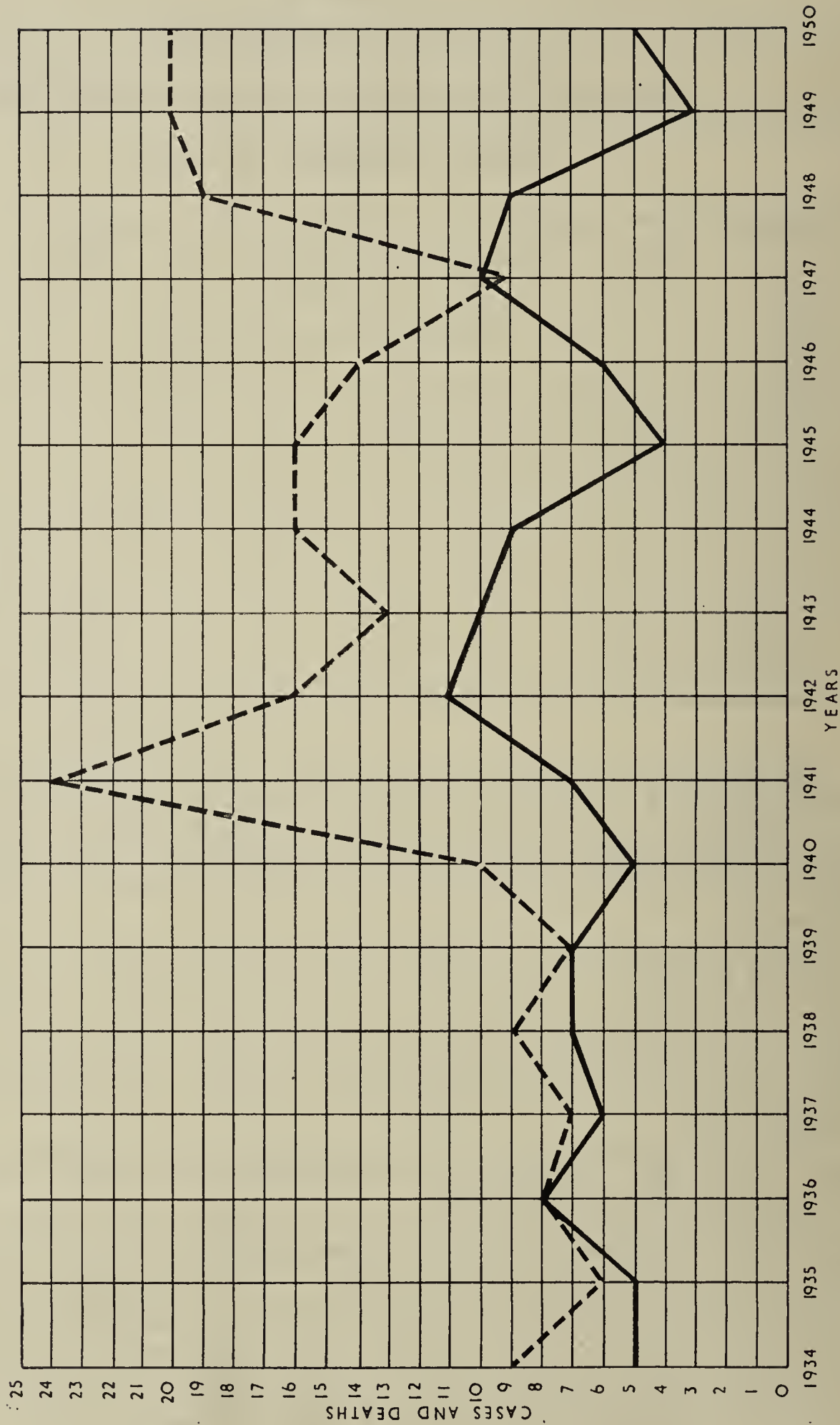
# SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

ANNUAL CASE AND DEATH INCIDENCE

KEY

NEW CASES.....

DEATHS.....



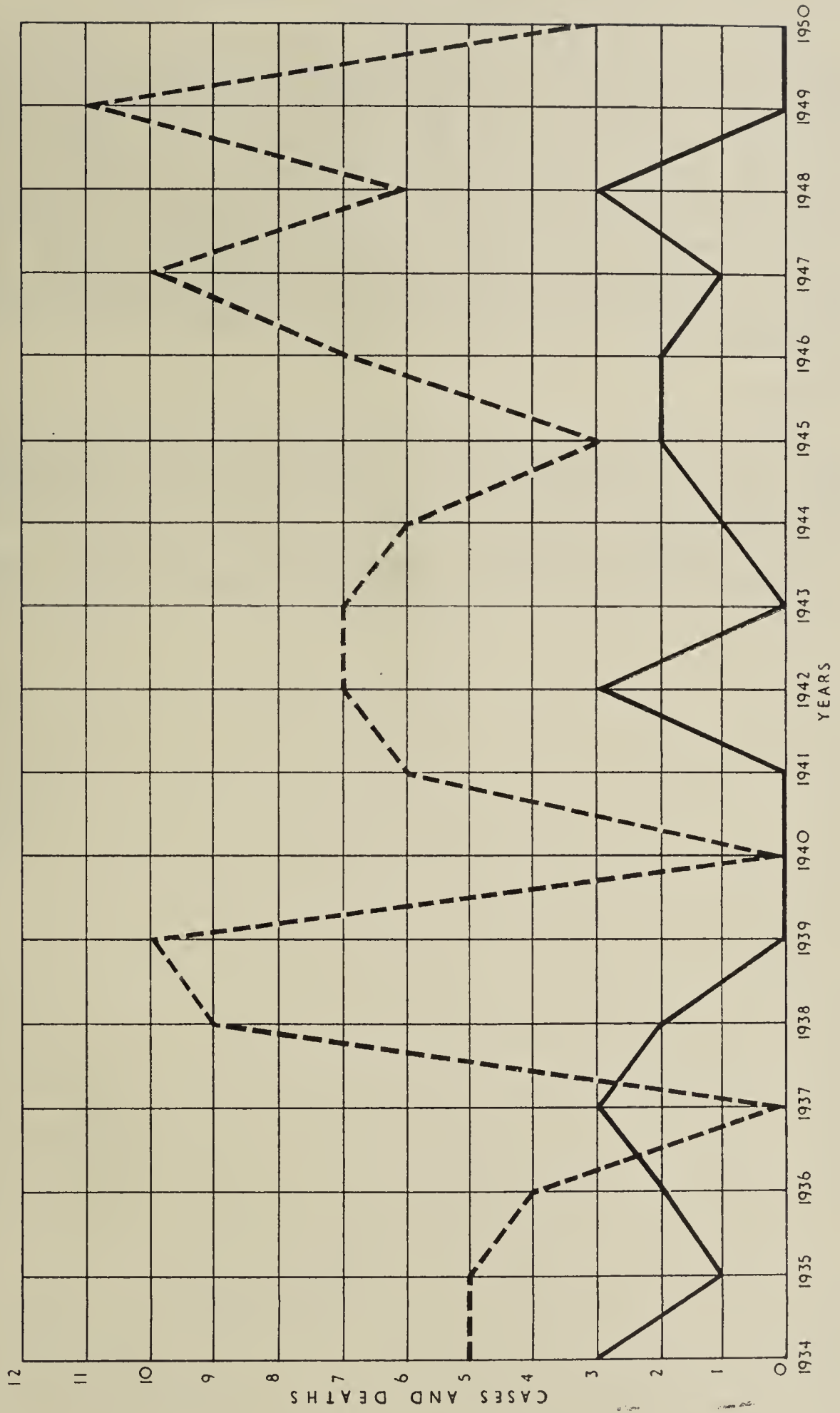
# SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

ANNUAL CASE AND DEATH INCIDENCE

KEY

NEW CASES.....

DEATHS.....





## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

### Section 47

No action was necessary under this section during the year. It will be remembered that the section relates to the removal to an institution of persons in need of care and attention who are unwilling to go but for whom it is considered that it is in their best interests that they should be cared for in this way. In August, 1951 an Amending Act to this section of the main Act was passed, enabling, in cases of urgency, a short procedure to be followed. This modified procedure is a desirable factor in the interests of the persons for whom this section was designed, but it is considered that all concerned with the welfare of the community should realise that an infringement upon the freedom of an individual should only be resorted to in exceptional circumstances. Certain domiciliary services are provided both by the local health authority and voluntary organisations. Despite the removal by statute of the onus upon the family to care for its aged members, children have a moral debt to their parents and should not look to the State for institutional assistance in the care of aged and helpless relations unless they truly believe that it is in the person's best interests and is the only course to be followed.

### Section 50

Under this section it is the duty of district councils to arrange for the burial of dead persons where 'no other suitable arrangements' have been made. Expenses incurred thereby are recoverable from any person who is liable to maintain the deceased. In certain circumstances the local authority may be able to recover the 'death grant' paid by the Ministry of National Insurance under the National Insurance Act, 1946.

Under this section the department has been called on to superintend the burial of one male and two female persons, who in each case were found dead in extremely insanitary conditions.



# REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

Total Number of Visits and Inspections recorded during 1951	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,413
Complaints Investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	257
General re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	551

## Housing:

General Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	146
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## Infectious Diseases:

General Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Number of Premises Disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10

## Verminous Premises:

Premises Disinfested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
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## Water Supply:

Inspections and Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136
Visits re Water Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	139
Visits re Chlorination Tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24

## Milk and Dairies:

Inspection of Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Milk Distributors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Visits re Milk Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63

## Food and Drugs Act:

Inspection of Food	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Preserved Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Ice-Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Other Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Slaughter-houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28

Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
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## Factories Act:

Mechanical	}	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Non-Mechanical		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Scavenging and Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	238
Ditches, Drains and Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	226
Sewage Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Petroleum Storage Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Civil Defence	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Miscellaneous Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73

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Number of Statutory Notices served (Public Health Act)	..	..	..	..	..	10
Number of Statutory Notices served (Housing Act)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Number of Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	243
Number of Nuisances and Defects found	..	..	..	..	..	560
Number of Nuisances and Defects remedied	..	..	..	..	..	380

## HOUSING

### Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:—

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects (Public Health and Housing Acts)	225
Number of dwelling-houses found not in all respects fit for human habitation .. ..	81
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	12
Number of dwelling-houses rendered reasonably fit after informal action .. ..	57

### Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	10
Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	Nil

### Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	6
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders:—	
(a) By Owners .. .. .	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	Nil

### Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	6
Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined .. .. .	1

### Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding

Number of new cases of overcrowding .. .. .	2
Number of cases abated .. .. .	Nil

### Housing Progress

#### Traditional and Non-Traditional Houses erected by the Council during the year

Traditional .. .. .	115
Non-Traditional .. .. .	42
	<hr/> 157

In addition 17 houses have been completed by private enterprise.

### Permanent Houses Built by the Council 1945—51.

Houses completed .. .. . 1945 .. .. .	Nil
Houses completed .. .. . 1946 .. .. .	26
Houses completed .. .. . 1947 .. .. .	34
Houses completed .. .. . 1948 .. .. .	68
Houses completed .. .. . 1949 .. .. .	128
Houses completed .. .. . 1950 .. .. .	130
Houses completed .. .. . 1951 .. .. .	157
	<hr/> 543

Supplementing the above houses are ex-Army and Air Force huts housing 311 families. The majority of these huts have been converted by the Council into a more satisfactory form of accommodation. 16 families are living in Council requisitioned properties.

### Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants

Since this Act came into force a total of 7 applications for improvement grants have been received of which one has been approved. The majority of applications concern rural cottages which apart from considerable improvement being required also need a great amount of ordinary repair. It is obvious that this provision of the Act will do little to improve the general housing conditions of the rural population.

### Dangerous Buildings (Public Health Act, Section 58)

It was necessary to resort to formal action by obtaining a court order against the unknown owner of the Old Market House, Linton, for effecting such work as would render the structure safe.

This 18th Century building had become dangerous and appeals were made to the Ministry of Works, the Ministry of Local Government and Planning and the Council for Preservation of Rural England, none of whom were able to interest themselves in it. The Council therefore acted in default of the owner and demolished the property at a cost of £95 0s. 0d.

### Moveable Dwellings.

The control of Moveable Dwellings presents no difficulty in the district. The number of applications for licences to station and use Moveable Dwellings has not increased and a total of 25 are licensed for periods not exceeding two years. Thirty-seven visits have been made to Moveable Dwellings and in all cases reasonable sanitary conditions have been found.

One site was licensed during the year but was not occupied in consequence of a ' refusal ' by the Planning Authority.

### PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

Particulars of Population and numbers of Dwelling houses supplied from Public water mains:—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Estimated population 1948</i>	<i>Number of houses as at 31/3/52</i>	<i>Number of houses supplied as at 31/3/52</i>	<i>Source of Supply</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sawston .. ..	1889	748	685	Sawston Bore (Chalk water)
Great Abington ..	437	139	129	
Little Abington ..	254	96	73	
Balsham .. ..	657	223	186	
Bartlow .. ..	104	27	22	
Carlton .. ..	195	87	66	
Castle Camps ..	522	179	150	
Shudy Camps ..	200	83	74	Linton Bore (Chalk water)
Hildersham ..	147	63	43	
Horseheath ..	326	122	97	
Linton .. ..	1449	516	449	
West Wickham ..	303	114	94	
Weston Colville ..	307	117	89	
West Wrating ..	388	135	95	
Abington Pigotts ..	122	45	37	
Bassingbourn ..	1056	365	257	
Kneesworth ..	78	31	9	
Litlington ..	536	230	187	
Melbourn ..	1425	497	285	
Meldreth ..	665	234	173	
Guilden Morden ..	537	202	156	
Steeple Morden ..	606	236	155	
Shingay .. ..	57	15	11	
Wendy .. ..	82	25	21	Croydon Bore
Whaddon .. ..	252	118	87	(Lower Greensand water)
Arrington ..	564	197	184	
Croydon .. ..	190	73	59	
Gamlingay ..	1488	518	366	
Little Gransden ..	200	101	90	
East Hatley ..	73	24	19	
Hatley St. George ..	81	17	14	
Orwell .. ..	446	189	165	
Wimpole .. ..	155	61	33	



<i>Contd.</i>	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Longstowe .. ..	235	60	32	Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board. (Lower Greensand water).	
Kingston .. ..	153	56	37		
Great Eversden ..	194	56	40		
Little Eversden ....	234	81	63		
<hr/>					
Heydon .. ..	168	57	50	Saffron Walden R.D.C. (Chalk water).	
Great Chishill ..	353	112	95		
Little Chishill ..	63	33	11		
<hr/>					
Whittlesford .. ..	970	292	Nil	No Public Piped Supplies.	
Foxton .. ..	571	172	—		
Ickleton .. ..	617	213	—		
Hinxton .. ..	288	100	—		
Barrington .. ..	514	170	—		
Tadlow .. ..	87	34	—		
Thriplow .. ..	378	131	—		
Shepreth .. ..	441	139	—		
Pampisford .. ..	352	102	—		
Babraham .. ..	196	72	—		
Fowlmere .. ..	625	251	103	Supplied from Ex-R.A.F. Bore. Supplied from private bore at Messrs. Aero Research Ltd.	
Duxford .. ..	903	302	38		

From the above figures it will be seen that out of a total of 8,260 houses, 5,029 (or approximately 61 %) are provided with a piped water supply, either by means of a standpipe or piped into the premises.

All public piped supplies are sampled for bacteriological examination once a month. These samples are supplemented by quarterly chemical analyses from the four bores within the district and by half yearly chemical analysis of water obtained from adjacent authorities.

A total of 118 samples for bacteriological examination and 19 for chemical analysis were taken. With the exception of three bacteriological samples all were found to be fit for human consumption. Two of the supplies which were found to be slightly contaminated on second sampling proved to be fit and the slight pollution which had occurred was probably due to repairing water main fractures. The third contaminated sample was from the Fowlmere distribution tank. The tank was examined and further proofing against birds carried out. Subsequent samples proved to be fit.

Chlorination of public piped supplies is undertaken either by the chloramine process or by chlorine alone. Each of the four pumping stations have automatic chlorinators installed and a proper residual is maintained.

Trouble was experienced in the Great Chishill district where a Council house is connected to the main by 'underground' fully annealed copper tubing. This had the effect of imparting 4.0 parts per million of copper to the water. Several samples were submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratory in London who were of the opinion that the degree of copper was greater than desirable but would diminish in the course of time. The service pipe had already been in use six months. At the time of writing this report samples show that the present copper content is 2.1 parts per million and therefore not excessive.

Repairs have been carried out to various public pumps situated in villages without a piped supply and in Barrington a new pump was fixed to the existing bore.

A total of 21 samples have been taken from private supplies and of these 16 were found to be unfit. Where possible, action was taken under the Public Health Act.

## REPRESENTATIVE RESULTS OF WATER ANALYSES FROM PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Examination	Fowlmere Airfield Bore Chalk Water	Sawston Bore Chalk Water	Croydon Bore Lower Greensand Water	Linton Bore Chalk Water	Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board Lower Greensand	Saffron Walden R.D.C. Chalk Water
Physical Characters .. ..	Good	Good	Very slight deposit faintly turbid, odourless	Good	Good	Good
pH Value .. .. .	7.2	7.1	7.5	7.1	7.1	7.1
Chlorine parts per 100,000 ..	1.95	2.25	3.15	1.95	8.7	1.75
Ammonia (Free & Saline) parts per 100,000 .. .. .	absent	0.0042	0.0702	absent	0.0090	0.0014
Ammonia (Albuminoid) parts per 100,000 .. .. .	0.0004	0.0014	0.0006	0.0004	0.0004	0.0032
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs, at 37°C. .. .. .	0.0275	0.0326	0.0342	0.0245	0.0264	0.0302
Nitrates (Expressed as Nitrogen)	0.75	0.70	absent	0.75	absent	0.60
Nitrites .. .. .	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Poisonous Metals .. ..	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
BACTERIOLOGICAL						
EXAMINATION:—						
Coliform Organisms in 100 mls.	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Number of microorganisms per ml at 37°C. .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of microorganisms per ml at 21°C. .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Hardness (Parts per 100,000) .. .. .	25.6	26.3	21.9	24.8	28.3	30.0
Microscopical Examination of deposit .. .. .	None	None	Mainly Mineral matter	None	None	None

### COMPREHENSIVE WATER SCHEME

I am indebted to the Engineer for assistance in compiling the following details.

In June a letter was received from the Minister of Local Government and Planning stating that he consented to the sinking of a trial borehole at Dotterell Hall subject to certain conditions which included:—

- (1) Trial bore shall not be less than 18 inches diameter and not more than 6 feet.
- (2) A survey to be made by the Council of all wells and springs within a radius of two miles from the proposed trial borehole.
- (3) The pumping test to be carried out under the directions of the Geological Survey Department.
- (4) Observation shall be kept on certain wells and springs in the neighbourhood.
- (5) The pumping test to extend over a continuous period of not less than fourteen days at a rate of 50,000 gallons per hour.



- (6) If, during the test the Geological Survey Department are satisfied that the owner or user of any source of water supply of which the Department is observing, is adversely affected by the trial pumping, they may direct the Council to remedy such effect.
- (7) Any dispute between the Council and a user in connection with (6) shall be determined by an officer appointed by the Director of the Geological Survey Department.

Prior to sinking the trial borehole, a 6" diameter bore has been sunk in order to obtain information as to the nature of the subsoil. At the time of writing this report a tender has been accepted for sinking the 27" trial borehole at a cost of £4,314 10s. 0d. and the work has been commenced.

### **Iron Removal Plant**

The Council's Consulting Engineers placed an order in February for the supply and erection of the iron removal plant at Croydon Pumping station and were informed by the makers that the plant would be ready for dispatch in 15 months. At the time of writing this report materials are arriving on the site.

### **Water Main Extensions**

The main at Steeple Morden has been extended along Station Road at a cost of £900. This will afford a much needed water supply to several cottages and farms.

A water main extension has also been made to Willingham Green, Carlton by 1,500 yards of 3" asbestos pipe. This was laid at a cost of £1,050. All the cottages en route are connected to the main and water is therefore no longer carted by the Council.

Tadlow village is still dependant on a carted water supply apart from a bore sunk some three years ago. Sanction to borrow £6,400 from the Ministry of Health for the main supply has been obtained and a starting date given for July 1st, 1952.

Longstowe water main extension has been approved by the Ministry but the work has not yet been put to tender.

Application has been made to the Ministry for sanction to borrow £1,244 for water main extensions at Linton and Shepreth.

During the year a Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee was formed to consider the matter of loss of water in the Western Area of the District.

Mr. P. Porteous, Managing Director of the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company was asked to make a report on the organisation and management of the Council's undertakings.

As a result of such report waste detection meters were installed, a systematic method of waste detection inaugurated and a considerable saving of water effected. Embodied in the report were, *inter alia*, the recommendation that efficiency tests should be carried out on the pumping machinery and more comprehensive statistics of daily pumping obtained.

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

### **Sewerage**

Stage 1 of the Sawston sewerage scheme has not yet been commenced. This sewer will connect the Council's housing site containing approximately 200 houses with the existing sewage works. At the present time the sewage from the site is lifted by a centrifugal pump into the existing sewer.

The work of sewer-ing Linton is proceeding and judging by the number of applications from owners to lay branch drains to the boundaries of their properties there is every indication that the majority of properties will be voluntarily connected to the sewer.

### **Sewage Disposal Plants**

Sawston sewage disposal works continues to be overloaded and the need for the new works is most urgent. The sedimentation tanks are pumped out monthly. The works at Weston Colville, Litlington and Fowlmere which receive sewage from the Hutment sites continues to work satisfactorily.

During the year small sewage disposal works have been completed on the council housing sites at Bassingbourn, Horseheath and Croydon. Further schemes are in active preparation for housing sites at Orwell, Ickleton, Guilden Morden, Steeple Morden, Castle Camps and Little Eversden.

### **Private Drainage Systems**

Sixty-one new drainage systems to private properties have been inspected in the course of the year and in most cases a water test applied.

## Rivers and Streams

The state of the river Granta at Sawston was the subject of a complaint which upon investigation proved that it was receiving polluted matter from a nearby factory. This was due to lack of care during relaying of settling beds. A sample of the trade effluent from these beds was obtained in June, on which the public analyst reported *inter alia*:—"the amount of suspended matter in this effluent is rather large, whilst the B.O.D. value may be considered moderately high. It is to be recommended that steps be taken to improve this effluent before discharging it into the river."

With the completion of Linton Sewerage Scheme the condition of the Bourne river should be improved as foul water from several properties finds its way into this river.

The River Boards Act, 1948 and the operation of the River Pollution Act, 1951 should in time improve the general state of the rivers in the district.

The purpose of the River Boards Act is to concentrate in a limited number of river boards the related functions of land drainage, the prevention of river pollution and fisheries, hitherto exercised by catchment boards, local authorities and joint committees and fishery boards. Under the Act, pollution prevention functions will, like land drainage and fishery functions under earlier legislation, be exercised by a single authority throughout the watershed area of a river or group of rivers. The river boards are also required, in carrying out their functions, to conserve the water resources of their areas and have statutory duties in connection with the measurement and recording of rainfall and river flow.

The Great Ouse River Board which embraces this area was appointed on April 1st, 1952.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council operated scheme of refuse collection has worked smoothly during the year and no trouble has been experienced with the three controlled refuse tips. It was necessary to have the Dennis Refuse vehicle painted and a tender of £47 10s. 0d. was accepted.

The following is a summary of refuse collection and disposal which is carried out by direct labour, i.e. one driver and two loaders using a 10 cubic yard Dennis side-loading vehicle, is for 29 parishes, 19 of which receive a monthly collection, 10 a two monthly collection and one hutted camp of 89 premises a fortnightly collection.

Year ending 31st March, 1952:—

Estimated tonnage of refuse collected	1,548
Estimated number of clearances	57,000
	£ s. d.
Cost per ton collection and disposal	1 4 0
Cost per clearance	7.8
Cost of vehicle per mile	1 4

The collection and disposal of refuse in the remaining 23 parishes is undertaken by 5 contractors. 13 of these parishes have a three-monthly collection, 7 a two monthly and only 3 a monthly collection. This infrequency leads to refuse being disposed of by inhabitants in ditches and in disused chalk pits, etc. In addition to this nuisance difficulty is found in instilling into the contractors the rudiments of controlled tipping and the state of the five tips in use leaves much to be desired.

Numerous letters received from inhabitants and parish councils asking for increased frequency of collection have failed to produce the desired result. It is hoped, however, that the Council will purchase an additional vehicle which will enable the whole of the district to receive a monthly collection.

Figures of tonnage, etc., of refuse collected by the private Contractors are not available. The estimated number of clearances is 24,500 and the cost per clearance is £9.8.16d.

## Night Soil Collection

This service is one which several parishes have asked for but while the expense remains a special rate charge, the cost would seem to be prohibitive.

Part of the village of Sawston, comprising approximately 120 houses, has a weekly collection. The private contractor disposing of the night soil on his own land.



## Rats and Mice Destruction

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 is peculiar for modern legislation, in that, instead of removing powers from district councils, it transfers permanent powers from the counties to the county districts. The primary duties of local authorities under the Act are:—

- (a) To take such steps as may be necessary to secure so far as practicable that their district is kept free from rats and mice.
- (b) To carry out such inspections as may be necessary.
- (c) To destroy rats and mice on land occupied by them.
- (d) To enforce the duties of owners and occupiers of land under the Act.

For the purpose of (c) one rat catcher is employed on contract basis to inspect and if necessary to destroy rats on the refuse tips and sewage works in the district. He also operates from time to time on the council housing sites.

As far as the general operation of the Act is concerned, occupiers of infested premises are given an advisory leaflet as to the best methods of rodent destruction. No survey work is carried out in the district to determine the prevalence of these pests.

## Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951

This Act repeals the earlier Acts and provides *inter alia* for the registration of premises where certain filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys and other articles of upholstery and for the licensing of premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored. The Act is strengthened by Regulations governing the sampling of filling materials and prescribes a standard of purity for such material.

There are no registered or licensed premises within the district.

## Pet Animals Acts 1951

This Act which came into force on 1st April, 1952 and was originated as a Private Members Bill seeks to protect pet animals by requiring persons keeping pet shops to be licensed by the local authority. A prerequisite of such a license is that regard should be had to size of premises including temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness.

In addition it is an offence to sell animals as pets in any public place except from a stall or barrow in a market and in no case to a child under 12 years of age.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) Milk Supply

Number of registered Dairies .. .. .	3
Number of registered Distributors (Non-Producers) .. .. .	16
Number of milk stores .. .. .	2
Number of Tuberculin Tested Producers .. .. .	44
Number of Accredited Producers .. .. .	15
Number of Non-Designated Producers .. .. .	43

Annual licences under the Designated Milk Regulations have been issued as follows:—

					Tuberculin	Accredited	Pasteurised	Sterilised
					Tested			
Dealers Licences .. .. .					7	Nil	7	Nil
Supplementary Licences .. .. .					9	Nil	7	1

During the year sampling was continued from dairy herds and particular attention was paid to the non-designated producers. Whilst the number of such producers is still high, the majority of the herds contain less cows than the Tuberculin Tested and Accredited herds, as will be noted by the following figures.

Systematic sampling of school milk is undertaken and all milk samples from dairy herds and schools are examined by the Cambridge Public Health Laboratories, whose assistance and advice is greatly appreciated.

## MILK SAMPLING

### Herd Samples

Milk Designation	No. of herd milk samples submitted	Representative No. of cows	Myco. tuberculosis present	Brucella abortus present	Samples rendered abortive due to Guinea-pig death
Tuberculin Tested	4	116	Nil	Nil	1
Accredited	10	171	Nil	Nil	2
Undesignated	26	170	Nil	1	1
TOTALS	40	457	Nil	1	4

### School Milk Samples

Milk Designation	No. of Milk samples submitted	Myco. tuberculosis present	Brucella abortus present	Methylene blue reduction test Failures	Phosphatase test Failures
Tuberculin Tested	7	Nil	Nil	No test	No test
Pasteurised	16	No test	No test	4	3
TOTALS	23	Nil	Nil	4	3

In samples where the phosphatase test has failed, investigation showed that there is a tendency on the part of the small distributor to mix pasteurised and raw milk together when the former is in short supply. This practice, I am pleased to say, is not general as the majority of schools are now supplied by the larger milk combines.

There are no pasteurising plants in the rural district.

### (b) Food and Drugs Act 1938

Inspection of food premises has continued apace with other work of the department, and 272 visits have been made to food premises including factory canteens and public houses. Improvements to public houses are proceeding, especially by one firm of brewers who own approximately 30% of the public houses in the rural district.

Particulars of work carried out (excluding Bakehouses and premises under section 14 Food and Drugs Act) include:—

Cleansing and redecoration of premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Structural repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Washing facilities improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Ventilation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Lighting Improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sanitary accommodation provided or improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Dustbins provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Towels and soap provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Accumulation of refuse removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

## Bakehouses

Number of bakehouses on register .. .. . 19

During the year a total of 43 inspections were made to premises and as a result of informal action the following works were carried out:—

Redecoration of premises .. .. .	16
Structural repairs .. .. .	5
Washing facilities provided .. .. .	2
W.C. and drains installed .. .. .	2
Utensils cleansed .. .. .	4
Towels provided .. .. .	1

## Food Premises. (Section 14)

Number of Premises Registered for:—

(a) Fish Frying .. .. .	5
(b) Sale of Ice Cream .. .. .	43
(c) Sausage Manufacture .. .. .	15

A total of 56 visits were paid to the above premises subsequent to which the following improvements were effected:—

Cleansing and redecoration of premises .. .. .	2
Structural repairs .. .. .	3
Sinks provided .. .. .	1
Main water laid on .. .. .	2
Utensils cleansed .. .. .	2

## Dogs in Food Shops and Restaurants

In November the Council decided to adopt a recommendation of the Minister of Food regarding dogs in food shops, restaurants, etc., and in accordance therewith printed notices requesting customers not to bring their dogs into the premises were prepared and signed by the Medical Officer of Health.

It is too early to judge the efficacy of the action taken but it can be said that the response of many shop keepers and others has been most encouraging.

## Ice Cream

A total of 34 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for the methylene blue reduction test. This test establishes the bacterial purity of the product as distinct from the chemical composition.

There are no manufacturers in the district and all samples were obtained from registered retailers of which there are 43.

The requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations have been observed insofar as they apply to retailers.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF SAMPLING

Methylene Blue Reduction Provisional Grading	Percentage of Samples			
	1948	1949	1950	1951
Grade 1	44	86	62	47
Grade 2	22	7	18	35
Grade 3	12	Nil	11	12
Grade 4	22	7	9	6



## Unfit Food

A considerable quantity of imported canned ham and shoulder was examined and found to be unfit for human consumption due to decomposition brought about by poor canning technique and insufficient cooking. It is understood that in many parts of the country this product was found unfit for human consumption.

Fifty-four visits were paid to premises in connection with the following unfit foods which were voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

											Cwts.	qr.	lbs.
Ox head and tongue	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			20
Lamb	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			23
Beef liver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			12
Imported canned ham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	1
Imported canned kidney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	23
Canned milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	0
Assorted canned meats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	5
Miscellaneous canned foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	14
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	24
Eggs	..	..	..	..	No. 191	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
TOTAL	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	1	10

## Slaughter of Animals

There are no Ministry of Food controlled slaughter-houses in the district. Twelve private slaughter-houses hold an annual licence and these are used mainly for pig slaughtering under the self supplier scheme. Occasionally a casualty is slaughtered. Routine inspections have not shown any contraventions of the Slaughter of Animals Acts.

Twenty-five men hold licences to slaughter under the Act.

## Offensive Trades

The factory in Duxford Parish continues from time to time to cause complaint by reason of offensive smells. These works, which were established in 1870, convert unfit meat into marketable fertilizers, fats and animal foods, etc. The nature of the trade is conducive to offensive smells, but work is being carried out by means of improved exhaust fume ducts to the mechanical digesters and fat extractors. The present motive power is steam, but it is being changed to electricity.

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937—1948

### Outworkers Section 110-111

The outworkers on the register number 35. All are engaged on the making or finishing off of wearing apparel.

### Fire Escape Section 34-37

Twenty-six factories hold certificates under the Act for adequacy of escape in case of fire. No contravention has been found to exist during the year.

### Approval of Wholesomeness of Drinking Water Supply Section 41

Sixteen factories have a private water supply. These supplies are examined from time to time and where found to be fit the necessary written approval is given.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

### 1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	89	112	17	—
(iii) Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by the local Authority (excluding Out-Workers Premises)	2	2	—	—
Total	114	126	17	—

### 2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	14	12	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	3	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	10	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	2	—	—
Total	21	26	2	2	—









